



## **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDERWAY AT TUSKEGEE AIRMEN NHS**

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### **Message from the Superintendent**

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Dear Friends:

For many of us, the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site holds a special place in our hearts. Thousands of people visit the site each year to honor those African Americans who participated in the Tuskegee Airmen experience and served nobly in the U.S. Military during World War II.

Since 1998, our staff has been privileged to help tell the many stories of Moton Field and the Tuskegee Airmen. As we move into the 21st century, the National Park Service is initiating a major planning effort that will guide the future management of the park. What should we be doing to ensure that the cultural and natural resources of the park are protected? What should we be doing to ensure that visitors continue to have a quality experience? What level and type of use are appropriate on the grounds? How can we work with our neighbors to address common problems that affect both the park and surrounding community? Tell us your ideas about these and other topics.

We invite and encourage you to participate in this planning process. Our goal is to develop a plan that will protect the cultural and natural resources of the park, meet the needs of our visitors, and address the concerns of our neighbors. To achieve this, we will work closely with Tuskegee University, the City of Tuskegee, Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, other federal and state agencies, private landowners, interest groups, and the general public. The plan resulting from this effort will guide future management and development decisions at Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site over the next 20 years.

We invite you to share your thoughts and ideas and learn more about the GMP project at one of two open-house meetings to be held at the park visitor center on Thursday, July 22. More information about the meetings is provided on page 4 of this newsletter.

Your thoughts and ideas are vital to the success of this planning process. We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you as we plan for the future together.

Sincerely,

Catherine F. Light, Acting Superintendent  
Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site



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## ***ABOUT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLANS***

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A General Management Plan (GMP) and a Development Concept Plan (DCP) are two important, yet distinct, parts of a tiered decision making process. A GMP articulates the long range management objectives that should be achieved over a 20 year period. A DCP takes a more detailed look at facility development options and/or other program activities.

Many people inside and outside of the National Park Service (NPS) would like to accelerate the planning and design process if possible so as many surviving airmen and women may experience, in their lifetimes, the lasting tribute being created in their honor.

A DCP traditionally follows a GMP. However, because Congress provided very specific instructions about facility development in the park's enabling legislation, NPS was able to speed up the process by beginning the DCP before the GMP. DCP planning began last year and the NPS has worked closely with a variety of park stakeholders during that time to develop conceptual designs for the park's major visitor service facilities. The GMP will not change any decision about facility development made during the DCP planning process.

To prepare the GMP, a multi-disciplinary team of NPS personnel will gather and analyze ideas and

recommendations about future management of the park. The GMP team will actively consult with federal, state, local, and tribal governments, park staff, and members of the general public in a process called "scoping".

The diversity of ideas collected during scoping will be used to define a range of management zones that express the cultural and natural resource management priorities of the park and maintain a diversity of high quality visitor experiences.

Management zones will then be overlaid on a map of the park in different combinations and locations to create a range of alternative management strategies, each expressing a unique intent or focus.

The various strengths and weaknesses of each alternative management strategy will be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will also provide a sound rationale for selecting a preferred course of action.

### **The Importance of Public Participation**

Public participation plays a central role in developing all recommendations in a GMP. The GMP planning team will continuously consult

with knowledgeable persons both inside and outside the NPS, including any interested groups or persons from the general public before developing its final recommendations.

As might be expected, some of the things that different people will want to happen at the park will be mutually compatible and others will not. The most appropriate mix of these wants will be determined by NPS based on the best information available and a systematic analysis of resource values and land uses.

As part of the GMP planning process, the NPS will analyze existing conditions and future possibilities at the park. A full range of potential management alternatives will be developed and their impacts rigorously explored. In making decisions, the NPS will seek, to the extent possible, to reach agreement among the park staff, the NPS leadership, other agencies with jurisdiction by law or expertise, its planning partners and the public on the most appropriate path forward.

### Where are we now in the planning process?

There are typically four steps in planning: “scoping” or information gathering; alternative development and analysis; preparation and publication of a draft plan and environmental impact statement; and revision of the draft and publication of a final plan and environmental impact statement.

The planning project timetable below highlights these steps, anticipated completion dates, and additional opportunities for public involvement.

Planning Project Timetable		
Step	Date	Public Involvement
1. Gather Information	Summer 2004	Newsletter, public open house meetings
2. Develop and evaluate alternatives	Fall 2004	Newsletter, response form, public review, public meetings
3. Prepare and publish draft plan and EIS	Winter 2005	Public distribution of draft plan, response form, public review, public meetings
4. Revise and publish final plan and EIS	Spring 2005	Newsletter, public distribution of final plan

### How You Can Participate in the Process

Your involvement is critical to the success of this project. The planning team encourages all

- existing and potential park visitors
- park neighbors
- people with traditional cultural ties to lands within the park
- park concessionaires
- cooperating associations
- scientists and scholars
- other government agencies

to share their comments, suggestions, concerns, issues, expectations, or ideas about future management and development options at the park.

### Written Comments

We are pleased to accept written comments in any form or format you wish to submit them. Handwritten responses on plain paper will be accepted as readily as computer generated responses printed on official letterhead.

Written comments should be sent via U.S. mail to:

Planning and Compliance Division - TUAIGMP  
Southeast Regional Office  
National Park Service  
100 Alabama Street, 6th Floor, 1924 Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

### Telephone Information

Persons interested in receiving additional newsletters, periodic email updates, or other information about the project are encouraged to call Tyrone Brandyburg at 334-727-3200. We encourage persons with highly detailed ideas or comments to submit them in writing so they can be considered in their full context.

### Public Meetings

Several public meetings will be held over the course of the project. The project's first two public meetings will take place Thursday July 22, 2004 at the Tuskegee Airmen NHS Visitor Center in Tuskegee, Alabama. There will be an afternoon meeting from 2 to 4pm and an evening meeting from 6 to 8pm.



## Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### General Management Plan

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### General Management Plan

## Public Meetings Scheduled for Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site Planning Study

Two public open house meetings will be held on July 22, 2004 at the park visitor center in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Persons attending the meetings are encouraged to visit one or more information stations set up in the visitor center to learn about the GMP planning process and express their ideas, questions, and concerns directly to an NPS representative.

The focus of these meetings is to document the concerns, issues, expectations, and values of existing and potential visitors, park neighbors, people with traditional cultural ties to the land, park concessionaires, cooperating associations, scientists, historians, scholars, and other governmental agencies.

Open house meetings are designed to promote informal information sharing between visitors and NPS planners. A prepared presentation by the NPS will not be part of the program and potential visitors are encouraged to come and go at their convenience anytime during the two hour meeting session.

## Meeting Date, Times, and Location

### Thursday, July 22, 2004

#### Location:

Visitor Center, Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, 1212 West Montgomery Road, Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

#### Time:

2:00pm to 4:00pm.

6:00pm to 8:00pm.

— Come and go at your leisure, open house meeting format

## Directions

Take Interstate 85 to exit number 38 (Highway 81). Go south on Highway 81. Turn left onto Chappie James Drive. The visitor center is located approximately 1 mile on left.

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For additional information please contact Tyrone Brandyburg at  
Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site  
telephone: 334-727-3200 • website: [www.nps.gov/tuai](http://www.nps.gov/tuai) • email: [tyrone\\_brandyburg@nps.gov](mailto:tyrone_brandyburg@nps.gov)

The meetings will be open house format. No formal presentation will be given. Instead, persons attending will be encouraged to visit one or more information stations to learn about the planning process and express their ideas, questions, and concerns directly to an NPS representative.

Feel free to come and go as you wish anytime during the two hour meeting time. More information about meeting times and locations is provided on page 4 of this newsletter.

#### Newsletters

Several newsletters will be published to help people stay informed about public meetings, discussions, draft alternatives, and other important project information. It is easy to add your name to our mailing list. Just provide your full mailing address or email address by telephone, U.S. mail, email, or in person the next time you visit the park.

#### Email

Comments and questions can be submitted by email to the planning team at [tyrone\\_brandyburg@nps.gov](mailto:tyrone_brandyburg@nps.gov).

#### Website

Point your web browser to the project web site at [www.nps.gov/tuai](http://www.nps.gov/tuai) for additional information about the park, the GMP planning process, public meetings, newsletters, and other on-line information.

Copies of newsletters, draft plans, and the final plan will be placed on the web site as they are completed.



**Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site  
General Management Plan**



**TWO PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS**

**Thursday, July 22, 2004**

**Location:**

Tuskegee Airmen NHS Visitor Center, 1212 West  
Montgomery Road, Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

**Times:**

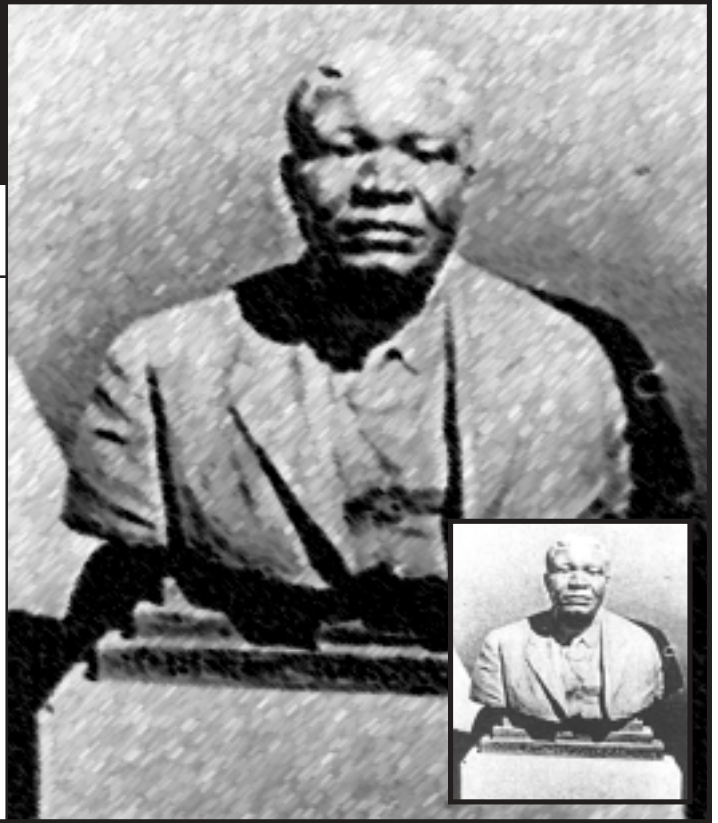
2:00pm to 4:00pm.

6:00pm to 8:00pm.

**Meeting Format: Open House Meeting**

Open house meetings are intended to promote informal information sharing between visitors and NPS planners. A prepared presentation by the NPS will not be part of the program. Visitors are encouraged to come and go at their convenience anytime during two hour meeting session.

*See page 4 of newsletter for additional details*



Planning and Compliance Division - TUAI GMP  
Southeast Regional Office  
National Park Service  
100 Alabama Street, 6th Floor, 1924 Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

